

**House Report 107-298 - DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE
APPROPRIATIONS BILL, 2002 AND SUPPLEMENTAL
APPROPRIATIONS, 2002**

ADDITIONAL VIEWS OF DAVID R. OBEY

In less than 300 years, the United States has grown from a tiny society in a remote corner of the world to the dominant power in global affairs. There are many reasons for that ascendancy but it is in no small measure tied to the fact that we have had two great oceans to protect us during times of trouble in Europe, Asia and Africa.

The security that those oceans gave the early settlers permitted greater degree of social order and the evolution of a society in which decisions were made by law rather than by force. The security provided a fertile ground for the growth of democratic institutions. It gave the American people the opportunity to pour their energies into generating wealth and building better lives for themselves and their families. It provided investors with a stable environment in which commercial activities would not be disrupted by foreign armies. The absence of foreign threat created conditions that allowed the potential for profit or loss to be gauged with greater accuracy and that contributed to the evolution of our complex financial system. The absence of foreign threats allowed us as a society to invest more in education, research and physical infrastructure.

But on September 11, the barriers that the oceans have provided against foreign troubles seemed to all but disappear. We entered a new era with not only an enormous loss of life and property but with a profound loss of the feeling of security that we now realize was one of our most unique and treasured national possessions.

The good news is that we have the wealth and technology to recover much of that lost security if we use it wisely. The first step down that road is the investment in enhanced domestic security made in this bill. Unfortunately, it does not go nearly as far as it should.

The President's budget staff has reported that federal agencies have submitted proposals for responding to the attacks of September 11th that total more than \$127 billion. That staff argues that we should reject more than two thirds of those proposals. In a great many instances, their recommendation is correct. Some proposals represent little more than an attempt by certain agencies to use the present situation to repackage spending requests that have been repeatedly rejected in the past and which have little true relevance to enhancing security. There are other proposals

that could significantly boost security but cannot be initiated in the near term even if funds are provided. Deferring action on those proposals will give both branches of government more time to evaluate our security needs and seek the most effective possible solutions. There are still other proposals that solve particular security problems--but they are problems that can be dealt with for at least a short period of time in effective but less expensive ways, again providing more time to evaluate and prioritize needs.

But there are other proposals that the White House budget staff argues should be rejected where that conclusion seems not only wrong but also foolish and in some instances even mindless. These include such things as:

- Steps to insure the continuity of operations at intelligence and law enforcement agencies in the event of an attack against those organizations,

- Strengthening the capability of federal, state and local public health agencies to detect and defend against an attack using biological weapons.

- Reducing the vulnerability to attack of military installations where nuclear, biological and chemical weapons are stored,

- Increasing the number of Customs Inspectors on the Canadian border and at ports of entry,

- Providing the FBI with the funds necessary to allow it to convert to a badly needed new computer system this coming spring rather than waiting until 2004.

- Helping Russia provide a greater degree of control and security over its nuclear and chemical weapons and its technology to build such weapons,

- Increasing FDA inspections of imported food so that 10% of such imports are inspected rather than less than 1% as is currently the case,

- Purchasing equipment that will protect our mail from dangerous biological agents.

I offered an amendment in the full Appropriations committee, which would have added \$6.5 billion to begin to fix these and other security problems with resources that would be available immediately if the President chose to use them. (See table at end of these views for details) That amendment posed the question: 'Should we act now on a specific number of time sensitive security enhancements or should we wait until next spring?' It is a question in which the American people have an enormous stake and should therefore be a matter of rigorous discussion.

The President's budget staff and the House Republican Leadership have remained solidly on the side of waiting. Despite the fact that my amendment was defeated by the committee by a vote of 34 to 31, it was clear, based on the public comments of a number of members who voted in the negative, that the amendment would have passed had it not been for instructions

issued by House Republican leaders. Now it is up to the Full House to determine whether this proposal should be debated and voted on by all members of the body.

Unfortunately for the purposes of public discussion, some of the unmet needs are highly classified. Others while not formally classified could provide our adversaries with more information about our vulnerabilities than I feel comfortable discussing in print or in public. Nonetheless, the American people deserve to know as much as possible about how effectively the government is mobilizing available resources to protect them from further attacks and I hope the following discussion is useful in framing some of the problems and the need for addressing those problems sooner rather than later.

PROTECTING AGAINST BIOTERRORISM

Upgrading State and Local Health Departments and Hospitals

The amendment adds \$277 million to the amount in the bill for assistance to state and local health departments, bringing the total to \$700 million.

These agencies are the first line of defense against bioterrorism. They have the lead role in detecting suspicious disease outbreaks that may indicate a bioterrorist attack, in investigating outbreaks to determine the cause and source, in doing the lab analysis needed to identify pathogens and chemical poisons and to determine whether suspicious substances are actually harmful, in organizing distribution of preventive antibiotics and vaccines, and in communicating with health care providers and the public. Yet, many state and local health departments report serious gaps in their preparedness and capacity to respond to terrorism and to major naturally occurring disease outbreaks.

Several leading public health organizations are calling for at least \$835 million in increased federal funding for state and local public health preparedness. The National Governors Association says \$2 billion is needed for these purposes. The latest annual report from the advisory panel on domestic preparedness for terrorism involving weapons of mass destruction, which is chaired by Governor Gilmore of Virginia, recommends appropriation of sufficient resources to fully fund the CDC's Strategic Plan for Preparedness and Response to Biological and Chemical Terrorism.

The Committee's bill takes a good first step, by adding \$358 million to the President's proposal of just \$65 million. But considerably more needs to be done.

Some of the additional funds in the Democratic amendment would be used to upgrade the capacity of state and local public health labs. This would include,

for example bio-safety upgrades, so that the labs can more safely handle dangerous pathogens like anthrax; equipment and training to perform rapid molecular analysis to accurately identify the major potential bioterrorism agents far more quickly than the 1-3 days often required for older techniques (well under half the labs in the bioterrorism response network have any capacity in this area, and many of those need enhancements); and equipment and training to perform 'rapid toxic screens' for possible chemical terrorism agents in human samples (only five state health labs have this capacity now).

The funds added by the Democratic amendment would also be used for a number of other important purposes, including better epidemiological surveillance (so that more areas can undertake active programs to watch for unusual disease events, rather than just collecting reports from doctors and hospitals after diagnoses have been made); more capacity to investigate disease outbreaks; and more training for public health and laboratory personnel.

The amendment also provides \$15 million for public health and laboratory training programs, to help upgrade skills and alleviate shortages of trained personnel.

Expanded CDC Support of State and Local Health Departments

Although CDC is a major producer of 'distance learning' and other training materials for health professionals nationwide and worldwide, CDC's production facilities date to the 1950s, much of its broadcast equipment is outmoded and in need of frequent repair, and studio space is cramped and inflexible. The amendment therefore provides \$85 million to start construction of CDC's proposed new Scientific Communications Center (no such funds are included in the Committee bill). The new center would greatly improve CDC's ability to provide distance learning and other public health training, as well as to communicate with state and local health departments, health care providers, and the public during health emergencies. Some of the additional funds could also be used to accelerate completion of infectious disease and environmental toxicology labs.

The amendment also adds \$40 million to the \$50 million in the Committee bill for other CDC needs, such as laboratory upgrades and development and dissemination of new rapid testing methods to detect biological and chemical terrorism agents.

Accelerating Research on Biohazards, Detection, and Treatment

Currently, no vaccines are available against some of the diseases thought to pose significant bioterrorism risks (plague and most viral hemorrhagic fevers, for example), and concerns about side effects limit the usefulness of other vaccines such as those against smallpox and anthrax. There are also no

known drug therapies for some of the major bioterrorism threats, including smallpox. Clearly, more research is needed in these areas.

The Democratic amendment would provide \$115 million to NIH to pursue an accelerated biomedical research agenda related to preventing and treating potential bioterrorism-related diseases. In contrast, the Committee bill provides just \$50 million and the President proposes no additional funding at all. Research areas that would be funded by the amendment include new ways of treating adverse reactions to smallpox vaccine, development of the next generation of smallpox vaccine, development of a new and safer anthrax vaccine as well as improved means of treating anthrax, use of antiviral drugs to treat diseases like smallpox and Ebola, and development of vaccines for other diseases of concern, such as Ebola, plague and Q-fever.

Bio-Safety Laboratories at NIH and Fort Detrick

Work with dangerous disease organisms like smallpox and its relatives and Ebola fever requires very specialized facilities to protect the health of researchers and prevent organisms from escaping. Currently, there are only three labs in the country with the highest-level bio-safety features ('Level 4') needed to work with the most dangerous pathogens. Researchers at NIH tell us that this is an insufficient number, and that long waiting times for lab access are hampering work needed to help us better understand these diseases and develop better vaccines and drugs to fight them. Therefore, the amendment provides \$85 million for constructing and equipping two new high-biosafety-level labs at NIH, including a Level 4 lab.

Further, the Level 4 lab at the Army medical research institute at Fort Detrick has been playing a major role in testing specimens during the recent anthrax incidents, and its capacity has been greatly strained as a result. Over the last six weeks it has tested almost ten times the number of samples it usually handles in a year. If we had another similar incident, the system could fail. The amendment therefore includes \$482 million for a large new Level 4 lab at Fort Detrick.

SECURING THE MAIL

The Postal Service is a critical component of \$900 billion mailing industry that employs nine million people and is responsible for eight percent of the gross domestic product. It is also a daily presence in the lives of Americans in every community across the Nation. The Postal Service is now on the front lines fighting against recent bioterrorist attacks. Tragically, this war has resulted in four deaths, two of them Postal employees. Americans are afraid of the mail now. Initial estimates of mail volumes for September 5 through October 8 declined by 6.6 percent compared to the same period a year earlier. First-Class Mail volume declined 2 percent; Priority Mail declined 15 percent; and Standard Mail fell 11 percent from their levels a year ago.

The Postal Service is working with private contractors and experts from across the Federal government to identify technology to restore faith in the mail system, protect Postal employees, and ensure the safety of the American people in the aftermath of this unprecedented threat. The Postal Service has already initiated contracts to use electronic beam and x-ray technology to sterilize limited amounts of mail. It is continuing to assess the use of these technologies, and others, to determine the best type of equipment for mail sanitation. The initial results are expected in a matter of weeks. The Postal Service is also exploring the use of detection technology and improved cleaning and filtration systems to ensure that the sanitization process works and that the employees and Postal customers are safe.

This bill does not do anything to protect our mail system. The Obey amendment would have provided \$500 million for immediate Postal equipment needs. We know this will not cover the total need. The Postal Service has indicated they may need as much as \$3 billion. The Obey amendment would make a down payment on mail security though, and it would be done in a fiscally responsible way by requiring a plan before the Postal Service could spend any of these funds.

AIRPORT AND AIRLINE SAFETY

Since September 11th there have been two main priorities to ensure the security of our nation's airplanes. One is to detect dangerous substances and people by enhancing the screening of bags and passengers and increasing law enforcement at airports. The second is to stop any terrorist who enters a plane by increasing the number of federal air marshals and by securing cockpit doors. The Obey amendment includes the additional funding for air marshals included in the Committee bill *and* the full funding requested by the President for cockpit doors. The President's proposal includes the cockpit door funding, but not the funding for additional air marshals. The Committee bill includes the air marshal funding, but only one-sixth of what the President requested for cockpit doors.

September 11th happened because terrorists were able to enter the cockpits of three airplanes. The Obey amendment provides an additional \$250 million to prevent this from ever happening again and would fully fund the President's request of \$300 million. Today, the airlines have made some improvements so that cockpit doors cannot be as easily broken into, such as the strengthening of bolts.

The President proposed \$300 million so that modifications can be made to secure the cockpit door in such a way as to permanently prevent an intruder from entering the cockpit door. The funding requested by the President and included in the amendment would be provided to airlines to ensure that all aircraft cockpit doors are modified as quickly as possible. Shortly after

September 11th, the President said that he intended to provide \$500 million in cockpit door funding.

Since September 11th the Federal Aviation Administration has imposed additional security requirements on our nation's airports, and rightly so. Increased patrols of ticket counters, baggage claim and make-up areas, and screening checkpoints have been mandated, as has increased inspections of controlled access points and the areas outside the airport. Airports have also been required to re-issue all airport identification and verify such identification at all access gates.

To meet these additional requirements, the airports have incurred additional costs, primarily for additional law enforcement officers and overtime. The American Association of Airport Executives estimates the cost of these additional requirements to be about \$500 million this year. These increased costs come at a time when airports are losing money due to decreased air travel and fewer people able to visit airport shops and eateries; the airports estimate the total revenue decrease to be \$2 billion in 2002, or 20% of estimated revenue. The Obey amendment includes \$200 million to assist airports in meeting the costs of the increased security requirements mandated by the FAA.

LAW ENFORCEMENT

Since September 11, Federal and State law enforcement agents have been overwhelmed. Most of our agents and officers were trained to combat traditional threats, such as robbery and drug trafficking; now they are being asked to address the most complex and dangerous threat our Nation has faced in recent memory. Our law enforcement agencies are dedicated to bringing the perpetrators of this attack to justice. However, they are overworked and armed with outdated tools and equipment. To help address critical investigative and infrastructure needs, the FBI requested \$1.5 billion. The Administration only requested, and this bill only contains, \$539 million. The Obey amendment includes a total of \$1.1 billion for this critical agency to combat this new threat with 21st Century tools.

The FBI has been the lead Federal agency for investigating terrorist activity. All 56 FBI field offices are involved in the investigation. Agents are following up on hundreds of thousands of leads and tips. They need modern tools to address this staggering workload. Problems with document control and data processing encountered during the McVeigh investigation underscore these needs. According to the FBI, more than 13,000 of their desktop computers are four to eight years old and unable to run today's basic software. Many smaller offices are connected to our internal network at speeds less than most individual Internet users have at their homes. Agents are unable to electronically store much investigative information--such as photographs or graphics--into investigative databases data.

The Obey amendment includes \$409 million, \$304 million above the Administration's request, to improve the FBI's computer systems. These funds will provide upgraded desktop equipment for FBI field offices, enabling the FBI to access to information more quickly, allowing them to finish this spring instead of in 2004. This funding will also allow the FBI to begin converting paper files to electronic so that it can continue operating if paper files in any of the field offices are destroyed, maintain better control over criminal records, and perform more efficient investigations. Without these computer tools, it will be virtually impossible for the FBI to efficiently manage a terrorist investigation of the size and scope that we are facing now. The Obey amendment also provides additional funds to hire more high-tech 'cyber cops' and hazardous materials personnel; improve DNA analysis and surveillance programs; and make infrastructure and personnel improvements.

KEEPING WEAPONS OF MASS DESTRUCTION AWAY FROM TERRORISTS

One of the most fundamental steps in protecting U.S. citizens from terrorist attacks is keeping dangerous weapons out of the hands of those who would use them against us. This requires greater efforts for securing of federal, non-federal and even foreign sources of materials for these weapons than is permitted within the amounts requested by OMB.

Securing Biological Agents

The bill as reported by the Committee contains \$156,700,000 as requested by the Administration for improved security at the Center for Disease Control, National Institute of Health, Food and Drug Administration, and the U.S. Departments of Agriculture and Energy. The Democratic amendment would provide an additional \$1,008,000,000 to meet the needs of these and other agencies that have been identified after the September 11 terrorist attack on our nation.

Nuclear Non-Proliferation

Russian President Vladimir Putin said that nuclear proliferation 'is one of the foremost threats of contemporary times.' President George Bush stated 'Our highest priority is to keep terrorists from acquiring weapons of mass destruction.' But the Administration's budget request and the bill reported by the Committee contain no funds for nuclear non-proliferation activities in Russia, which is perhaps the major deficiency of this bill, which provides only \$18,000,000 for non-proliferation technology activities. The Minority amendment instead provides \$316,000,000 more to the Department of Energy for non-proliferation and intelligence activities:

\$131,000,000 for protection against the use of spent nuclear fuel as 'dirty bombs' by terrorists, consolidation of nuclear materials and weapons within Russia, accelerated physical security over Russian Navy nuclear weapons, and increased nuclear monitoring equipment at the Russian border to detect smuggling.

\$60,000,000 to assist Russia to improve physical security of Soviet-designed nuclear power plants and to assist the United Nations in detecting and inspecting undeclared nuclear activities in countries that support terrorism.

\$77,000,000 for non-proliferation technology development. Some of these funds are for global surveillance and monitoring of illicit movement of nuclear materials overseas by terrorist. The rest of the funds are to develop tools for law enforcement and military applications; chemical-agent systems for use in subways and at sporting or other highly populated events; helicopter-based biological agent detection systems; and an advanced airport baggage inspector for trace quantities of illicit chemicals or explosive residues.

\$30,000,000 for Russian nuclear and biological scientists, who are susceptible to recruitment by terrorists. These funds are to convert Russian biological weapons facilities to civilian vaccine production, and to provide seed funds to Russian scientists to develop and market new technologies.

\$18,000,000 for improved intelligence concerning illicit nuclear materials.

Assured Security of U.S. Nuclear Weapons

The bill as reported by the Committee contains \$99,700,000, which is \$18,000,000 less than requested by the Administration, for the Department of Energy to improve the security of U.S. nuclear weapons and materials. The Minority amendment

provides an additional \$503,000,000 to the Department of Energy to provide better protection against terrorist incidents at U.S. federal nuclear facilities:

\$84,000,000 for hardening of U.S. nuclear material and weapons storage to include construction projects, additional force protection, replacement of aging protective systems, and replacement of alarm, detection, and assessment systems.

\$57,000,000 for increased security at Department of Energy environmental cleanup sites that contain radioactive and other toxic materials.

\$35,000,000 for secure transportation of nuclear weapons, to include enhancement of operations centers, transportation infrastructure upgrades, and improvements to special response force vehicles.

\$327,000,000 million for cybersecurity, bioterrorism, and classified activities at Pantex, Texas.

Chemicals and Chemical Weapons

The bill as reported by the Committee contains no funds to address security risks associated with chemicals and chemical weapons. The Minority amendment provides an additional \$85,000,000:

\$50,000,000 for assessing vulnerability to and reducing risks associated with the storage of dangerous chemicals within the United States. Treatment plants store large quantities of chemicals, primarily chlorine, as a disinfectant for wastewater. About 60 percent of wastewater is treated by fewer than 300 facilities--which, by their nature, are near population centers. This poses a large risk to those population centers. In addition, there is concern that the nation's wastewater infrastructure could serve as a conduit for hazardous substances or other threats. Wastewater collection systems form an extensive network that runs near or beneath key buildings and roads, and is contiguous to many communication and transportation networks.

\$350,000,000 for improved security at four Department of Defense sites that store tons of chemical weapons.

Oversight of Labs Handling Dangerous Bacteria and Viruses

Numerous laboratories throughout the country handle and store dangerous pathogens that are considered major bioterrorism risks. While there are benefits to research work with these organisms, they must be handled, stored, transferred and disposed of safely in order to prevent them from falling into the wrong hands (or being released accidentally into the environment).

CDC is required by law to regulate labs that transfer or receive certain dangerous organisms (known as `select agents'), to make sure that proper procedures and safeguards are in place. However, only 9 staff are currently assigned to this function. Of the roughly 250 labs registered under the program, CDC has been able to inspect only about 60. There is also a backlog in simply processing applications for registration (which involve detailed documentation regarding handling and safety procedures).

The Democratic amendment would provide \$10,000,000 to CDC for oversight and regulation of labs handling dangerous organisms. Neither the President's proposal nor the Committee bill expressly provide any additional funds for this purpose.

It also provides \$9,000,000 for improved security at Ft. Detrick MD, which is one of the most important defenses against bioterrorism, and well as home

for important classified activities. This will fund some of the basics for force protection: fencing, gates, barricades and a remote inspection facility.

Other Federal Security Requirements

The bill as reported by the Committee contains \$58,000,000 for a number of federal agencies to secure dangerous materials. The Minority amendment provides an additional \$64,000,000 for improved security at the National Institutes of Health, the Food and Drug Administration, and the Department of Agriculture.

IMMIGRATION AND BORDER SECURITY

Well before September 11, it became clear that we needed to harden security along the Northern Border. There are 128 Northern Border ports and stations. There are 64 ports and stations along the Northern Border that historically have not been open 24 hours per day. Some of these locations were secured by placing traffic cones in the road and using signs to detour travelers to another processing center. The Congress recognized these deficiencies when it passed the USA PATRIOT Act, which authorized tripling the number of border personnel at the ports of entry along the Northern Border. The public needs to understand, however, that not one additional dime was provided to any federal agency to deal with the problems with the passage of this act. That legislation provides lawmakers who wish to do so with the opportunity to tell their constituents that they voted for the authority to provide such services without discussing whether or not they voted for the funds required to implement that authority. That can only be provided in actual appropriations and this is the only appropriation bill left in this session that could contain such funding.

Despite the porous security on the Northern Border and the lessons learned from the Millennium bombing conspiracy, the Administration did not request any additional funds to expand the Customs Service Northern Border hiring initiative. This bill cut funds needed to secure federal buildings and protect federal workers in order to increase spending for Northern Border Customs agents by \$80 million over the request. That is still not enough. The Obey amendment would have provided \$145 million in line with the Service's request, to complete the hiring of 790 additional Customs agents and the purchase of new inspection technology.

The bill provides a total of \$409.6 million for critical personnel, equipment and technology needs of the Immigration and Naturalization Service. The Obey amendment would have provided an additional \$128 million above the amount for the most critical construction and facility needs of the INS. While staffing levels for INS inspectors and Border Patrol agents have increased dramatically over the past six years, including an additional 300 land point of entry inspectors funded in this supplemental package, facility expansions

have not kept pace. For the Border Patrol alone, facility shortfalls exceed 60 percent of requirements. Use of trailers and temporary facilities are common, and in many cases agents have no adequate space in which to detain arrestees. The Obey amendment addresses the highest priority construction needs for the INS, and represents a down payment toward meeting INS's detention and other facility requirements.

PORT SECURITY

The Obey amendment includes a total of \$915 million to improve security at our nation's ports. There are 361 public ports in the United States and they conduct over 95 percent of United States overseas trade.

The Interagency Commission on Crime and Security in U.S. Seaports reported in Fall 2000 that the state of security in U.S. seaports generally ranges from poor to fair and that control of access to the seaport or sensitive areas within the seaports is often lacking. The Commission found that criminal organizations are exploiting weak security in ports to commit a wide range of cargo and that the vulnerability of American ports to potential terrorist attack is high. The Commission recommended minimum security guidelines for U.S. seaports and the implementation of a five-year crime and security technology deployment plan.

The Obey amendment includes \$200 million for grants to U.S. seaports for security assessment and enhancements. The 14 deepwater seaports in Florida alone estimate that \$80 million is needed to fully implement critical security measures that have been identified. Many ports have not even begun the process of identifying needed security measures. The funds provided in the amendment can be used for such assessments and for implementation of such measures once assessments are performed.

The Customs Service only inspects 2 percent of the 600,000 cargo containers entering our seaports every day. The Administration requested no new funding for additional Customs agents at the Nation's seaports. The Committee bill only contains approximately \$80 million. The Obey amendment includes \$147 million for 841 new Customs inspectors and to continue the purchase of new inspection equipment at our 20 most vulnerable seaports.

The Obey amendment also includes \$368 million for the Coast Guard, \$223 million more than the Committee bill. The Coast Guard has substantially increased operation since September 11th and devoted the majority of its operations to ensuring that our nation's ports are secure. Prior to September 11, Coast Guard operations were spread evenly to drug interdiction, search and rescue, fisheries enforcement, port security and navigation aids. Today, almost 60% of Coast Guard operations are devoted to port security. The amendment fully funds the President's request of \$203 million for increased

Coast Guard operations for six months of FY 2002. The Committee bill funds only \$145 million of the President's request. The amendment also includes \$165 million for increased Coast Guard operations for the remainder of FY 2002. While it may be necessary in the future to provide even additional Coast Guard port security funding, at a minimum it is necessary to ensure that Coast Guard active duty personnel do not decrease after March 31, 2001.

TRAIN AND BUS SECURITY

September 11th demonstrated how critical both rail and intercity buses are to our transportation system. When our nation's aviation system was shut down, many people used intercity buses, Amtrak and other passenger rail systems to reach their destinations.

Since September 11th, all of our transportation systems have reviewed their security posture. Our motor coach and passenger rail systems have very limited security today. Buses and rail systems are terrorist targets in other countries and the amendment includes \$200 million to fund some limited security improvements. Amtrak has identified over \$500 million of security needs, including fencing, increased guards, and alarm systems. Motor coach companies have identified some limited steps that they can take to increase security, by establishing communications systems linked to police, screening passengers and installing cameras and estimate the costs of such improvements to be about \$100 million.

FOOD AND WATER SAFETY

The issue of ensuring the safety of imported food was important before September 11th, and it is even more important afterwards.

Most Americans would probably be astounded to know that *the FDA is only able to inspect seven-tenths of one percent of the imports under its jurisdiction.*

FDA itself told the subcommittee this year, 'FDA wants to assure the safety of the imported food supply, however, our resources have not kept pace with the increase in trade.'

The FY 2002 Agriculture Appropriations bill does provide full funding of this year's pay raise for FDA personnel, which will help ease constraints on the agency's budget.

But the events of September 11th require us to do more.

In its November 5th issue, Newsweek included the following item:

'Am I satisfied with the inspections we're doing? No,' said [Health and Human Services Secretary Tommy] Thompson. ' *I am more fearful about this than anything else.*' [Emphasis added.]

The FDA told the Agriculture Subcommittee this year that getting to a level of 10% inspection on imports would cost about \$300 million.

This bill (like the Administration's request) will add \$46 million for import inspection. The amendment offered by Rep. Obey would have included all the funds in this bill for the FDA, but would have provided an additional \$239 million, for a total of \$300 million, to meet the full cost identified above to reach 10% inspection. In addition, it would have provided \$20 million for investigative and emergency operations activities at FDA.

Water supply systems are vulnerable to many kinds of terrorist attacks: physical attack, chemical and biological attack. Sabotaging our drinking water system, through biological or chemical terrorism is, for good reason, a large concern to the general public. Unfortunately, poisoning our drinking water is not difficult feat--a fire hydrant could be used as the conduit for contaminating our drinking water. Contaminating water supplies is rooted in history and while the stories are difficult to document, we know that they have occurred. There have been a few attempts to poison a water supply in the United States. One occurred in New York City in the mid-1980s when low levels of plutonium were found in the drinking water. In another instance, a cult contaminant a city water supply tank with salmonella in Dalles, Oregon which resulted in more than 750 cases of salmonellosis in a county that typically has fewer than five cases a year. Given the lack of security of our water supply system facilities, contamination of our drinking water supply is highly possible.

The physical security of our water supply system is also of great concern. Our water systems are highly vulnerable to explosion or disruptions in the pumping and electrical systems. Often, the water plants are older facilities with pumps 60-80 years old and many of these pumps have no spare parts meaning that they must be sent out for repair. Some of the smaller water supply plants have no one manning the water facility at all.

Finally, community water supplies are generally designed to deliver water through the use of pressure and usually supply most of the water for fire-fighting purposes. Sabotaging pumps that maintain flow and pressure or disabling electric power sources could cause long term disruption. Long term loss of the water supply or water pressure could adversely affect our ability to fight a fire or cause numerous other problems.

This amendment would provide an additional \$80 million to secure our drinking water systems--for vulnerability assessments, remedial work, emergency operating plants and research for 750 large and medium-sized

water systems as well as 600 small systems. These funds will help to secure our drinking water supplies and to protect the American public.

SECURITY OF GOVERNMENT BUILDINGS AND FACILITIES

There are over 2.7 million U.S. Federal employees around the world. In the aftermath of the September 11th, there is a renewed sensitivity to the threat that is posed to Federal employees. To many around the world, Federal employees are a symbol of America. Unfortunately, not all Federal employees enjoy the protection that we have here in the Capitol. Federal employees are targets. We learned that tragic lesson the hard way in Oklahoma. We were reminded of this lesson on September 11. The President requested \$201 million through the General Service Administration to enhance security at Federal facilities and begin finding replacement space for dislocated Federal employees in New York. This bill only provides \$88 million to address these issues. The Obey amendment would fully fund the President's request.

The amendment offered by the Minority includes \$29,300,000 to design and construct perimeter security and a visitor screening facility to protect the Washington Monument. The Washington Monument because of its symbolic value and its panoramic view of the Washington Mall, the Pentagon and the Northern Virginia area is classified as the number one potential terrorist target by the U.S. Park Police. It has been the target of three significant attacks since 1979 including hostage, sniper and truck bomb threats. New security systems for the Monument were in development prior to the terrorist attacks on September 11, 2001 and provisions of funding in the Emergency Supplemental will allow construction of these upgrades to begin immediately. An additional \$5,346,000 is proposed by the minority for perimeter security upgrades at the Jefferson Memorial and \$7,078,000 for similar upgrades at the Lincoln Memorial.

The Obey amendment also provides a total of \$186,500,000, an increase of \$155,000,000 over the base bill, for the security needs of the Federal Judiciary. While the President's request for the supplemental fully funded the security needs of the White House and the Legislative Branch, only 7 percent of the Judiciary's identified immediate security needs were included in the request. The Obey amendment would only provide only about one-third of the identified need, but would provide for: enhanced security systems and equipment at courthouses nationwide; an emergency communications system to ensure that judges and court administrators can maintain contact with the Administrative Office of the U.S. Courts; specific security needs at the Thurgood Marshall Federal Judiciary Building, which is adjacent to the Capitol Complex; increased security requirements to address the biological/chemical threat posed in the screening of mail to the Judiciary; and the installation of protective window film at certain court facilities nationwide.

NASA

NASA's Kennedy Space Center is a symbol of American achievement and international cooperation. This Center and other NASA facilities are potentially high-profile terrorist targets. In order to prepare for and ensure a robust capability to mitigate

terrorist attacks we must provide the necessary funds. This amendment, similar to the Majority's proposal, includes additional funds for securing NASA facilities.

National Water Infrastructure

The bill as reported by the Committee contains \$139,000,000 for the Army Corps of Engineers and \$30,259,000 for the Department of the Interior Bureau of Reclamation as requested by the Administration to partially meet the security requirements identified by these agencies after the September 11 terrorist attack on our nation. Together, these agencies operate hydroelectric power facilities, dams, locks, and commercial waterways in all 50 states. The Committee bill funds only 52 percent of what the Army Corps of Engineers and only 38 percent of that the Bureau of Reclamation identified as their counter-terrorism security requirements in fiscal year 2002.

The amendment which the Majority offered unsuccessfully in Committee and hopes to offer in the House would provide an additional \$168 million over the Committee bill to fully fund that the Army Corps of Engineers and the Bureau of Reclamation have identified to provide adequate physical security to their most critical facilities in fiscal year 2002. The additional funds are necessary to minimize the risk of terrorist disruption to shipment of commercial goods over the nation's waterways, and to reduce the risk of a terrorist attack on a federal dam, which could result in tremendous loss of life, economic disruption, and severe environmental damage.

After the terrorist attacks, the Army Corps of Engineers designated 372 facilities as 'critical' that needed immediate increased surveillance and protection against terrorist attack. These needs include increased personnel and overtime compensation to maintain additional guards; restricting/controlling vehicular traffic over dams; deploying barriers, barricades, bollards, and gates; increasing electronic surveillance of locks, dams, and powerhouses; and conducting detailed vulnerability assessments.

The Bureau of Reclamation operates 362 'high-hazard' and 'significant-hazard' dams and hydroelectric facilities in 17 western states. Hazard ratings are based on the potential for loss of life and property damage downstream. Three of the Bureau's dams are listed as National Critical Infrastructure. The Administration's budget request and this bill provides only 78 percent of the guards, 24 percent of the equipment, and none of the funds for cyber-

security that the Bureau requested from the Office of Management and Budget for counter-terrorism security.

Security Upgrades for U.S. Military Facilities

The Office of Management and Budget estimates that we have over \$2.4 billion in unmet security needs for our military installations, but none was requested by the Administration for this supplemental. Recognizing that the security of our bases, weapons, as well as the men and women who serve us, the Committee included \$80,000,000, certainly needed by not even adequate to meet the highest priority needs.

The Obey amendment included \$355,000,000 to address this problem. In the United States, many of our bases have been open to the public, or traversed by major highways and other public roads. In an open society, we want to keep these facilities as open as possible, but at the same time we must increase their security. The funds in the amendment are not for glamorous solutions, but the basics: fencing and perimeter roads to provide a first line of defense, barriers, gates and guardhouses for traffic control, and remote facilities so that trucks and shipments could be inspected without endangering nearby facilities.

SECURITY FOR SCHOOLS AND COLLEGES

The Obey Amendment adds \$100,000,000 to the Committee bill to help schools, colleges and universities across the country to conduct essential emergency preparedness activities and to implement security improvements. Because academics come first, schools and institutions of higher education have not had adequate funds to prepare for unanticipated, crisis events caused by bio-terrorism, suspicious packages, bomb threats, and school shootings.

Many schools and colleges lack the emergency communications equipment needed to get real-time information from emergency responders during a crisis. Schools report a need for funds to train school security personnel, students and staff in evacuation and emergency procedures. Moreover, they report a need to upgrade security equipment and technology, particularly electronic access control and intrusion detection systems, video surveillance equipment, and emergency management systems and communications equipment.

For example, a New Jersey school district with over 4,000 students reports:

We have many parents who work in Manhattan. When a disaster such as the WTC tragedy occurs, when a train is 'bombed' as it was several years ago, or when there is a weather-related disaster, we improvise our own emergency relief plan with our staff, parents, and local law enforcement

officers until parent returns home. This is particularly difficult as two of our eight schools are in 'dead areas' that will not allow for wireless communication. Funding to improve communications is needed * * *. Our funds are dedicated to provide as strong as possible educational programs focused on each and every child becoming a life-long learner. Therefore, it should be no surprise to any of our legislators that we've not budgeted for new locks, extra security guards, new doors, state of the art communications systems, remodeling of office space. All of our efforts have been spent on instruction and learning.

The Obey Amendment includes the \$10,000,000 requested by the President for emergency assistance to school districts for mental health and other services that are needed *after* a traumatic event occurs.

However, we have an obligation to help safeguard our children, teachers, faculty and education staff by helping schools, colleges, and universities to be proactive in

assessing their emergency response capabilities and security needs before another tragedy.

OTHER SECURITY

Foreign Language Training

The Obey Amendment adds \$20,000,000 to the Committee bill for a National Security Foreign Language Initiative to increase the number of international experts, including those entering government service, with in-depth expertise and language proficiency in the targeted world areas of Central and South Asia, the Middle East, Russia, and the Independent states of the former Soviet Union.

Our national security, stability and economic vitality depend, in part, on American experts who have sophisticated language skills and cultural knowledge about the various areas of the world. An urgent need exists, in particular, to enhance the fluency of U.S. citizens in languages relevant to understanding societies where Islamic and/or Muslim culture, politics, religion, and economy are a significant factor. There was no better illustration of this critical need than the FBI Director's call on September 17th for U.S. citizens who are fluent in Arabic, Persian, or Pashto to enlist as contract linguists to help with the nation's probe into the September 11th attacks.

The Obey Amendment will help correct our deficit in foreign language and international expertise. No American university, for example, currently offers foreign language training in Pashto, the main language of the Taliban. Fewer than 1% of American college students are studying in languages deemed by

Department of Defense to be critical to national security. The additional \$20 million will provide financial assistance to colleges and universities to double our current level of effort to train experts in targeted languages, including Arabic, Azeri, Armenian, Dari, Hindi, Kazakh, Persian, Pashto, Tajik, Turkish, Turkmen, Uzbek, and Urdu. The funds also would be used to enhance the capacity of U.S. higher education institutions to sustain these programs over time.

Domestic Preparedness Assistance Program for First Responders

The amendment offered at Full Committee would also have provided an increase of \$150,000,000 over the \$400,000,000 in the Majority's package for Department of Justice state and local domestic preparedness assistance for first responders, in accordance with plans for this program developed by each State and approved by the Department of Justice, rather than a duplicative program under the Federal Emergency Management Agency as proposed by the Administration. Funds provided would have been available for additional domestic preparedness equipment grants, training exercises, technical assistance, and related research and development.

Grants for Firefighters

This amendment provides an additional \$150 million for grants to firefighters. Often, firefighters are our first responders to an emergency and they certainly played a large role in the response to the terrorist attack on the World Trade Center on September 11. The Urban and Search and Rescue teams that are used in terrorist incidents such as this are primarily made up of firefighters and in fact, eight task forces were deployed to New York City to support the New York Fire Department at Ground Zero. Additional monies for these grants could be used to train firefighter personnel, purchase vehicles and equipment, and protective equipment--all items needed to support our firefighters.

CONCLUSION

This proposal was put together in a condensed time frame and by a staff with limited resources to explore the needs and responsibilities of all of the agencies and activities of the federal government. Informed and thoughtful people may well differ with specific recommendations contained in this package. In doing so they may well improve its content. Such is the normal nature of the legislative process. What is not normal and should not be acceptable, particularly under the current circumstances, is to push such proposals aside without proper debate and based only on the argument that nothing more can be done to protect the American people until next spring because they do not fit within an arbitrary spending ceiling that was neither debated nor agreed to by the Congress.

We have already suffered a remarkable level of damage at the hands of terrorists. Few would have predicted that a single act by a single terrorist organization could have resulted in a loss of life or loss of property and loss of economic growth of the magnitude that we have experienced. Every day that our ports and borders are inadequately guarded is another day of opportunity for those who wish us ill. Every day that nuclear and chemical stockpiles in the former Soviet Union are kept in facilities without adequate security is also an opportunity for such individuals. Once they have achieved control over these materials or succeeded in slipping them across U.S. borders our only hope will be a larger and more effective law enforcement effort. Every day we delay in providing that effort is another day that they have a better chance in making another successful attack.

If the House of Representatives is to decide that we should not spend the amounts needed to further tighten domestic security, it should not be on the basis of a vote in a single committee in which a majority of those present and voting would have reversed the outcome, given the dictates of their own conscience and judgments.

MINORITY PROPOSED ADDITIONS TO THE COMMITTEE BILL FOR DOMESTIC SECURITY

1

[In millions of dollars]

 Committee Bill Minority Proposal Minority vs. Committee

Protecting Against Bioterrorism:

Upgrading State & Local Health Departments & Hospitals		
593	915	+322
Expanding CDC Support of State and Local Health Departments		
50	175	+125
Accelerating Research on Biohazards, Detection and Treatment		
100	165	+65
Bio Safety Laboratories at NIH and Fort Detrick, MD		
0	567	+567
Vaccine and Drug stockpiles		
1103	1153	+50
Other Bioterrorism Requirements		
110	110	+0
Total		
1956	3085	+1129
Securing the Mail:		
Procurement of Sanitation Equipment for Postal Service		
0	500	+500
Airport and Airline Safety:		
Federal Assistance for Mandated Security Upgrades at Airports		
0	200	+200
Increased Sky Marshals and Sky Marshal Training		
288	288	+0
Cockpit Door Security & Explosive Detection Equipment		
159	409	+250

Innovations in Airport Security		
90	90	+0
Total		
537	987	+450
Law Enforcement:		
FBI Case Management Computer System (Trilogy)		
105	212	+107
FBI Data Backup and Warehousing		
0	197	+197
FBI Cybersecurity, Transportation and Other		
434	798	+364
Other Justice Department Law Enforcement		
106	112	+6
Law Enforcement Assistance (Olympics)		
17	17	+0
Law Enforcement Assistance (National Capital Area)		
25	244	+219
Federal Law Enforcement Training Center		
14	32	+18
Secret Service, IRS ect.		
236	236	+0
Total		
937	1848	+911
Keeping Weapons of Mass Destruction Away from Terrorists:		
Improved Security at 4 DoD Sites Storing Tons of Chemical Weapons		
35	35	+0
Improved Security for Nuclear Weapons Activities		
88	534	+446
Nuclear Non Proliferation Assistance for Russia		
0	191	+191
Security of Russian Nuclear and Biological Scientists		
0	30	+30
Nuclear, Chemical and Biological Detection		
18	95	+77
Improved Security at Nuclear Cleanup Sites		
8	65	+57
Energy Intelligence		
4	22	+18
CDC Oversight and Training for Labs Handling Dangerous Pathogens		
0	10	+10
Increased Security of Dangerous Chemical Storage Sites		
0	50	+50
Improved Security at Fort Detrick, MD		
9	9	+0
Improved Security at CDC, NIH, FDA and USDA Research Facilities		
58	122	+64
Total		
220	1163	+943
Immigration and Border Security:		
790 Additional Customs Agents for Canadian Border		
80	145	+65
Machine Readable Visa Machines at All U.S. Consulates		
0	30	+30
Immigration Inspectors, Border Patrol & Related Equipment		
410	410	+0
Adequate INS Detention & Admin. Facilities at U.S. Border Crossings		
0	128	+128

Total		
490	713	+223
Port Security:		
Full Annual Cost of Expanding Coast Guard by 640 positions		
145	369	+224
Federal Grants for Port Security Assessments and Enhancements		
0	200	+200
800 Additional Customs Service Agents for Cargo Inspection		
80	147	+67
Total		
225	716	+491
Train and Bus Security:		
Federal Grants for Enhancing Security of Rail and Bus Travel		
0	200	+200
Food and Water Safety:		
Expand FDA Inspections to Cover 10% of All Food Imports		
61	300	+239
Increase in FDA Emergency Operations and Investigations Staff		
0	20	+20
Assessment and Enhancement of Security for Drinking Water		
115	195	+80
Total		
176	515	+339
Security of Government Buildings and Facilities:		
Security Upgrades for Supreme Court and Other Federal Courthouses		
32	187	+155
Security Upgrades for Federal Buildings		
182	374	+192
Increased Security for Federal Museums, Parks and Monuments		
81	113	+32
Security Upgrades for National Water Infrastructure		
169	337	+168
Security Measures for White House and Congress		
306	306	+0
Security for U.S. Overseas Facilities		
0	158	+158
Security Upgrades for U.S. Military Facilities		
80	355	+275
Total		
850	1830	+980
Security for Schools and Colleges:		
Grants for Assessment and Emergency Response Planning		
0	100	+100
Other Security:		
Counterterrorism Assistance for State and Local First Responders		
400	550	+150
Grants for Firefighters		
0	150	+150
Foreign Language Training in Arabic, Farsi, Pashto, etc.		
0	20	+20
Miscellaneous Security Items		
10	40	+30
5401		
11867	+6466	+200

ADDITIONAL VIEWS OF HON. JAMES T. WALSH, HON. NITA LOWEY, HON. MAURICE D. HINCHEY, AND HON. JOSE E. SERRANO

The bipartisan New York Congressional Appropriations delegation strongly opposes the Committee's failure to include additional contingent emergency spending for the critical recovery efforts in New York City. The Committee's actions directly contradict the language of the 2001 Emergency Supplemental Appropriations Act for Recovery from and Response to Terrorist Attacks on the United States (P.L. 107-38). P.L. 107-38 explicitly states:

That not less than one-half of the \$40,000,000,000 shall be for disaster recovery activities and assistance related to the terrorist acts in New York, Virginia and Pennsylvania on September 11, 2001

We expect that the Congress and the Bush Administration will keep its commitment to provide \$20 billion for these activities out of the funding available in P.L. 107-38. We understand the pressing needs for national security and homeland defense created by the September 11 attacks, which is why we drafted our amendment as a contingent emergency to give the President money in the bank to spend when needed. We believe this is the best way to deal with the extraordinary expenses--detailed below--arising from the attack on New York. We appreciate the President's willingness to ask for more funding when he believes it is necessary. With Congress heading into a long recess, we believe it would be better to have this authority in hand immediately.

Nearly 5,000 people are dead or still missing as a result of the terrorist attacks on the World Trade Center. New York City, New York State, and the entire metropolitan region have lost billions in property and economic damages. In the days following September 11, Governor George Pataki and Mayor Rudolph Giuliani, with input from business, industry, and labor, developed a comprehensive list of the most immediate needs and highest priorities for the promised \$20 billion in relief. This list was developed in full consultation with all interested parties and was endorsed by the entire 31-member New York Congressional delegation.

In the first days following the attack, 25,000 New York residents were displaced from their homes; today, more than two months after the attack, 5,000 people are still unable to go home. The attack completely destroyed more than 16 million square feet of hotel and office space, while doing damage to millions more, resulting in the dislocation of 838 major companies. In addition, 15,000 small businesses were destroyed, disabled, or significantly disrupted. As a direct result of the attacks, New York lost more than 108,500 jobs. This figure does not include the thousands more than have been lost in the City, State, and metropolitan region during the last two months as the effects of the attacks rippled through the economy. The New

York City Partnership and Chamber of Commerce estimate that New York will lose \$83 billion in economic activity this year.

The City and State both sustained huge losses, not only through the destruction of critical infrastructure, but also through the estimated loss of \$12 billion in revenue over the next 18 months. In addition, the City lost \$1.4 billion in destroyed or damaged police, fire, and sanitation equipment. The World Trade Center sat on top of a major transit hub, and subway and commuter rail stations were destroyed when the towers collapsed. As a result, the subway system in lower Manhattan has lost 42 percent of its capacity. It will cost at least \$3 billion to remediate and repair these facilities. The West Side Highway and other roads surrounding the World Trade Center were severely damaged, and the estimated cost of repairs is at least \$250 million.

The Borough of Manhattan Community College, part of the City University of New York, sustained nearly \$300 million in damages to buildings and equipment at its campus when Seven World Trade Center collapsed. New York City public school students lost thousands of hours of classroom time that will need to be made up before the end of the year, costing the Board of Education at least \$100 million.

Public utilities in and around Ground Zero also suffered major losses. Electrical power to lower Manhattan was disrupted by the complete destruction of two electricity substations located in the World Trade Center complex. In addition, five transmission feeders and associated equipment supplying the substations were severely damaged. The 24-inch steam distribution main (approximately 1,500 feet of steam piping) that ran beneath the WTC complex and approximately 500 feet of steam main adjacent to the WTC is presumed destroyed pending access and excavation of the site. Finally, 11,000 feet of natural gas distribution lines in and around the WTC complex were damaged or destroyed.

Telecommunications systems were also severely damaged when numerous switches that route telephone calls were damaged or destroyed. Several hundred cables transporting telephone service from those switches to customers in the surrounding neighborhoods were crushed and/or water damaged. Two million circuits were severely damaged at the New York Stock Exchange. By working 24 hours a day for almost a week, Verizon reconstructed the telephone lines in order to get the New York Stock Exchange up and running by September 17.

The most popular public radio station in New York, WNYC-FM, and the nation's largest public television station, Thirteen/WNET-TV, sustained at least \$15 million in damages. WNYC's FM transmitter and antenna, as well as its backup FM transmitter were destroyed in the collapse of the North Tower. Thirteen/WNET-TV was knocked off the air for five days and lost an engineer, who was working at the transmitters site atop Tower One. With the collapse

of the World Trade Center buildings, Thirteen lost both its analog transmitters, a new digital transmitter, switching equipment and other hardware.

New York metropolitan area hospitals responded generously to the attacks, sending medicine, supplies, equipment, and staff down to the site. Some of this equipment was lost when the Towers collapsed. Combined with tremendous overtime costs, the hospitals sustained at least \$140 million in direct operating losses.

These losses are real, and only scratch the surface of what is likely to be needed in the coming months and years. We appreciate the funding provided in division B of the bill, but strongly disagree with the Committee's reasons for voting down our amendment for an additional \$9.7 billion to support the recovery efforts in New York.

James T. Walsh.

Maurice D. Hinchey.

Jose E. Serrano.

Nita Lowey.

ADDITIONAL VIEWS OF HON. CHET EDWARDS

While I voted for the Committee's mark of the FY02 Department of Defense Appropriations Act, I was very disappointed that the Committee did not include an increase in funding for nonproliferation programs within the \$20 billion supplemental appropriation that was attached.

I find it irresponsible and dangerous that even in light of the September 11th terrorist attacks, this House has said, in effect by our votes, that it is less important to fund programs that protect Americans from the threat of nuclear terrorists than it was a year ago. Earlier this year, the Department of Energy Appropriations bill included a smaller budget than last year's for nuclear nonproliferation programs with Russia. These programs provide for increases in security for loosely guarded Russian nuclear materials that could fall into the wrong hands. At the time, I was assured that the supplemental appropriations bill would be the appropriate place to increase this budget, as it would include programs funded to respond to the attacks of September 11th. Unfortunately, this bill did not include those funds, and the only amendment offered during Committee consideration of the bill that would have increased our efforts in this area was struck down 34-31.

The President has made it clear that he believes this is a threat. On November 13, he stated: 'Our highest priority is to keep terrorists from acquiring weapons of mass destruction * * * We agreed that it is urgent that we improve the physical protection and accounting of nuclear materials and prevent illicit nuclear trafficking.' Earlier this year, a review led by former Senator Howard Baker and former White House Counsel Lloyd Cutler

declared: 'The national security benefits to U.S. citizens from securing and/or neutralizing * * * nuclear weapons and potential nuclear weapons could constitute the highest return on investment in any current U.S. national security and defense program.'

Let me review five facts that are not in dispute:

1. If the September 11th terrorists had used a nuclear bomb, with a soda can sized lump of plutonium, and placed it in lower Manhattan, millions of people would have died.
2. There are over 600 metric tons, enough for 41,000 nuclear devices, of weapons-usable material in Russia today that is in urgent need of additional security improvements, according to the U.S. Department of Energy.
3. We know of 14 separate seizures of highly enriched uranium that had been stolen from Russian nuclear sites since 1992. In eight of those cases, the uranium was seized outside of Russia, in Germany, the Czech Republic, and Bulgaria.
4. We know that since 1993 Osama bin Laden's Al Qaeda organization has made attempts to obtain nuclear material from Russia. In fact, when Northern Alliance forces drove Taliban forces out of Kabul, they found schematics and other background materials describing how to build a crude nuclear bomb.
5. Because of an agreement signed in September between the United States and Russia, we have a window of opportunity to put in place anti-terrorist safeguards at numerous Russian nuclear sites. No one knows when that window of opportunity will close.

Based on those known facts and the devastating potential of nuclear terrorist attacks, Congress should act immediately to work with Russia in providing adequate safeguards at their numerous nuclear sites.

I know that every Member of this House would do almost anything to prevent a nuclear terrorist attack on the United States. Sadly, though, our spending decisions are not consistent with that commitment.

I will vote for this bill because of the good that it does, and because I know that the Chairman will continue to look for an opportunity to fund these critical programs. I believe we have a moral obligation to the American people to do everything possible to prevent terrorists from using nuclear weapons against American families.

CHET EDWARDS.

